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Good Evening,

My name is Carmensita Rios, I would 1st like to thank you for this opportunity to speak with you. I am a Bridgeport resident living on the north end of the city. My husband & I have a son that is an 8th grade Bridge Academy student. His name is Joshua, he has Inattentive ADD. He has been receiving special ed services since kindergarten. When you have a child that requires a little extra than the typical as a parent you are always thinking ahead, so two years I was thinking about what high school would benefit Josh Our neighborhood high school was Central and knowing how overpopulated it is, we felt that Josh would get lost there. So the search began, I knew that I had to find a small school setting that had a special ed dept. So I went online and found Bridge Academy, it was a charter school, serving 7-12 grade, has less than 300 students and they had a special ed program. So I filled out the application & waited to hear if his name was picked in the lottery. It was! After his 1st semester there, my husband & I along with Josh had a meeting with all his teachers including special ed to strategize how best to support him. I was amazed that in that short time how well they already knew Josh! Their goal was to find ways to make sure my he learned, and they have! Not every child learns the same way and at Bridge Academy I can honestly say that they provide a personalized learning environment. More families need access to charter schools like Bridge Academy, and those schools should be equitably funded. I urge you to support Governor Malloy's proposal. Thank you.

Carmensita Rios

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